



Welcome to The City. Enter through this portal. Passport, ID, contraband check. Fingerprints, iris scan.

Watch where you walk. Stay out of the dangerous places.

What danger, you say? Oh, sure, it looks so normal. There's parks and trees, Metro-flats and shops, kids playing, people strolling. So ordinary. So *nice*.

Don't be fooled. There are also dark places where you'd rather not know what's going on. Whispers. Shadows. Of course, there *are* conveniences. Flash your wrist-pod at this music terminal. Synth-vibe, bio-trad, alt-fusion... name it and you can download it. Short of cash? If there's one thing that's easy here, it's getting your hands on money. Quick stop at your MetroBank terminal and the transfer's made.

Holding onto your money - now, that's a different story.

Hungry? Good. Here's The Hub café. The neighbourhood hangout. Good food. Open late, into the desperate hours.

Gaia, the owner, she's a tough one. Wants you to think so, anyway. The new chef, Sienna - she can throw together salvation on a plate. Smell that? Chocolate... cinnamon... chili... mmmm...

There's Rio. He's the jock Game player, working as a dishwasher until he gets signed as a pro - or so he hopes. Nikos, a young wrist-pod technician. You'll find him sitting alone, nursing a coffee. He's got a thing for Luna, the waitress, a university student, who might have a thing for Rio, who definitely would like to get something going with her. The usual tangled triangle.

The tall guy who needs a shave? That's Liam, Gaia's nephew. Nice guy, new dad. Always strapped for cash, what with the baby and wife and too many bills.

Watch out when Zack comes in. He's Gaia's ex. Made a success as a corporate mover, and he doesn't mind rubbing Gaia's nose in it. Especially when he has his new young flame, Indigo, on his arm.

Wait - what's that sweeping yellow-green searchlight? SecurGuard cruiser! Quick - inside the The Hub.